

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 477

September 29, 1995, 4:25 p.m.
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COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE APPROPRIATIONS/Information Infrastructure

SUBJECT: Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 2076. Gramm motion to table the Kerrey modified amendment No. 2817.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE FAILED, 33-64

SYNOPSIS: As reported, H.R. 2076, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide a total of \$26.525 billion in new budget authority, which is 1 percent less than provided for fiscal year (FY) 1995, and which is \$4.634 billion less than the Administration requested. The Justice Department and the Judiciary will receive substantial increases in funding, and the Commerce Department, the State Department, and related agencies will receive substantial reductions in funding.

The Kerrey modified amendment would restore \$18.9 million for the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP; the bill will provide \$0).

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Gramm moved to table the Kerrey amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment. (No offsets were provided because prior to the offering of the amendment the bill's 602(b) budget allocation was increased; the Kerry amendment used a portion of this increase.)

NOTE: Following the failure of the motion to table, the amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The Senate voted to eliminate the Commerce Department when it passed the Budget Resolution. This bill will begin the process of eliminating it. One small program which it will get rid of entirely this year is the TIIAP program. That program has never been authorized. All it does is provide a small amount of grant money each year in the area of telecommunications, which is presently receiving the largest amount of private investment that any area has ever received in history. The Government does not need to be

(See other side)

YEAS (33)		NAYS (64)			NOT VOTING (3)	
Republicans (33 or 62%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (20 or 38%)	Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Gregg	Bond	Akaka	Inouye	Shelby- ²	Glenn- ²
Ashcroft	Hatch	Brown	Baucus	Kennedy		Johnston- ²
Bennett	Hatfield	Burns	Biden	Kerrey		
Campbell	Helms	Chafee	Bingaman	Kerry		
Coats	Inhofe	Cochran	Boxer	Kohl		
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Cohen	Bradley	Lautenberg		
Craig	Kyl	Grassley	Breaux	Leahy		
D'Amato	Lott	Hutchison	Bryan	Levin		
DeWine	Lugar	Jeffords	Bumpers	Lieberman		
Dole	Mack	Kassebaum	Byrd	Mikulski		
Domenici	McCain	Murkowski	Conrad	Moseley-Braun		
Faircloth	McConnell	Packwood	Daschle	Moynihan		
Frist	Nickles	Pressler	Dodd	Murray		
Gorton	Santorum	Roth	Dorgan	Nunn		
Gramm	Smith	Simpson	Exon	Pell		
Grams	Thompson	Snowe	Feingold	Pryor		
	Thurmond	Specter	Feinstein	Reid		
		Stevens	Ford	Robb		
		Thomas	Graham	Rockefeller		
		Warner	Harkin	Sarbanes		
			Heflin	Simon		
			Hollings	Wellstone		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

involved. In fact, we point out to our colleagues that the only reason that rapid growth has occurred is because the Government removed restrictions on the industry in the 1980s. The notion that the relative pittance provided by this program makes any difference is preposterous. If our colleagues cannot even vote to eliminate funding for as inconsequential and useless a program as the TIIAP program, then we do not know how they can seriously tell us that they intend to join us in harder votes to eliminate more defensible Commerce Department programs. If our colleagues cannot join us in tabling this useless, unauthorized program now, we do not look forward to some of the more difficult votes ahead.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

We support the TIIAP program because it is a proven success. It is a matching grant program that results in \$2 in spending for every \$1 the Federal Government puts in. Grants are used primarily in rural areas to connect schools, libraries, local governments, and other community users to the Internet. We agree with our colleagues that the Internet is growing by leaps and bounds, and that Government regulation and spending is hardly the prescription that is needed for continued growth, but we disagree that Government does not have a role. In looking at the current pattern of development, access to the Internet is not equal; some groups are being left behind. In particular, smaller, rural communities and poorer, inner-city communities have less access. The TIIAP program has served as an equalizer. Local rural and inner-city communities, in partnership with private businesses, have rushed to take advantage of this program. The backlog of applications for grants proves the extent of the need. We should not eliminate this very needed program. We think that it is the Government's job to make certain that the opportunities provided by the Internet are available to all Americans. We therefore oppose the motion to table the Kerrey amendment.